

C O P Y

DOCUMENT BOOK 1 BERGER  
Doc. No. 3, Exhibit No:  
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A f f i d a v i t

I, Dr. Kurt Krause, m.d., born on 7.6.1910, residing in Tuebingen, Fuerst-  
strasse 3, give the following

affidavit

after being informed that this affidavit is intended for submission to the Military  
Tribunal in Nuernberg and that the violation of any obligation to tell the truth  
is subject to heavy penalties.

- 1.) In January 1945 I was detailed as staff physician to the staff of the then  
Obergruppenfuehrer and General of the Waffen-SS Gottlob Berger. On the  
evening of 2 May 1945 I was confidentially informed by Berger that a number  
prominent prisoners of war, who belonged to the English high nobility or  
the U.S. and Polish armies, were in Pongau prisoner of war camp in the  
Tyrol. Some time before these prisoners of war had broken out of Lauffen  
prisoner of war camp, but had been recaptured. Berger said that a few days  
before he had learned from the Reich Defense Commissioner of Upper Bavaria,  
whose name was Gieseler, that Hitler had repeated his order to shoot these  
prisoners of war because of their attempted escape. Gieseler remarked to  
Berger that even if he was to be killed on the steps of the Feldherrenhalle  
in Munich he would first execute this order of Hitler's and have the prisoners  
of war shot. Gieseler further informed Berger that he had set up two  
Sonderkommandos which were to carry out the shooting of the prisoners,  
since the Gestapo could no longer be relied on.
- 2.) Berger told me at that time that the execution of such a project, no matter  
who carried out the execution, would represent a blot on the military honor  
of the SS for all times, since he - Berger - was Chief of the Prisoners of  
War Organization. Consequently, in contradiction to the express order of the  
Fuehrer and what he knew to be Gieseler's intentions, he had decided to save  
the lives of these prominent prisoners. Berger asked me whether I was willing  
to save these prisoners from the hands of the Sonderkommando and take them  
to Switzerland by night by illegally breaking through the German border  
defense line. Berger also told me at the time that he had taken the list  
of names of these prisoners away from Gieseler's desk at a favorable moment  
without Gieseler noticing it.

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3.) Berger called my attention to the great dangers which the discovery of the execution of the project would constitute for my life and his. I must clearly understand that even if Berger could not force me to do it nevertheless I would bear the full responsibility for the success of the project if I accepted the mission. I immediately perceived that the lives of the prisoners could still be saved only by swift action such as Berger intended. In agreement with Berger's views I accepted the order in the full conviction that my action was right. Berger handed me the proper passes and authorizations for the border defense authorities, by virtue of which I could cross the German border with the prisoners without hindrance. I drove to Pongau in the Tyrol by car on the same evening. The prisoners were lodged there in a building which by special orders of Berger all persons were forbidden to enter without Berger's special approval. This measure had been ordered by Berger in order to keep out any of the police kommandos sent by Gieseler. I arrived at Pongau at night and therefore could not take any further action until day-break. After I had entered the building by virtue of the special permission which had been given me I ascertained from a talk with the local officer in charge that the prisoners included, among others: the son of the British field marshal, Lord Alexander, 1st Lieutenant Michael Alexander; a nephew of the Queen of England, 1st Lieutenant George Henry Lascelles; British 1st Lieutenant Felix Malcolm de Remel; the British Captain John Alexander Elphinstone, and the American 1st Lieutenant John G. Winant, son of the American ambassador in London at that time; in addition, 6 Polish generals, including the two divisional generals Tadeuzs Komorowski (Bor) and Tadeuzs Kossakowski, as well as a number of other Polish officers with their orderlies. At nightfall we left the camp and first went to Berger's quarters. Berger himself had arrived in Pongau around noon of this day accompanied by the representative of Switzerland as the power entrusted with the protection of Allied prisoners of war, Concillor of Legation Dr. Buchmueller, since he was anxious about the fate of the officers. Berger greeted the officers, especially their spokesman Captain Elphinstone, and informed him of the proposed evacuation to Switzerland. Then Berger offered the Allied officers a farewell snack as well as farewell drink and conversed with the officers in a cordial manner. As a symbol of their freedom Berger then handed Elphinstone as spokesman for the officers a pistol inlaid with ivory and also gave out pistols and ammunition to the other officers.

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Following this I set out in the darkness with my column consisting of several cars with the prisoners in the direction of Innsbruck. After several unimportant incidents, I succeeded in piercing the German front early on the next day, 4.5.1945 at 5.45. Then I learned that the U.S. Army was already advancing against us and was on the point of launching a tank attack. I drove up to the American armored forces, had myself conducted to their commander and after announcing the purpose of my mission was able to set out on the trip to a divisional staff of the U.S. 7th Army in Innsbruck. There an agreement was reached in the presence of Dr. Buchmueller by which the Allied officers were not to be taken to Switzerland any more but were to remain in the occupied American zone. In recognition of my help in saving these prominent officers I myself was not made a prisoner of war but was sent to Stuttgart by car and from there allowed to go home.

- 4.) On the basis of these actual occurrences which I personally experienced I can state that the above-named prominent prisoners of war have General Berger alone to thank, with his resolution and personal courage, that they escaped with their lives from this critical situation, in which they were placed by Hitler's order and Gieseler's plans.

Tuebingen, 25 March 1948

signed: Dr. Kurt Krause

The preceding signature, executed before me, of Dr. Kurt Max Krause, m.d., born on 7.6.1910 in Wahnsdorf near Dresden, assistant physician, residing in Tuebingen, Fuerststrasse 3, who has satisfactorily established his identity by showing his identity card with photograph issued by Police Headquarters in Tuebingen on 14.5.1945 under the number of A 23 287, is hereby certified by me.

Tuebingen, 25 March 1948

District and Public Notary

signed signature

Stamp of the District Notary's Office  
in Tuebingen/Neckar

Costs:

Business value accord. par. 24,  
sect. 2 KO fixed at  
RM 1000.--  
Fee accord. par. 39 KO RM 2./  
(St.A.: 1.-EM)  
Not. Ret. No. 203, A.V.T/48 No. 35

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original now before me.

Muernberg, 30 March 1948

Dr. George Froeschmann  
Attorney at law

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